

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 965



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Office of the Secretary

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Introduced by Sen. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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RESOLUTION

**URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO SHARE WITH THE FILIPINO PEOPLE ONE OF THE BALANGIGA BELLS BY PLACING IT IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR THE APPRECIATION AND EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC ESPECIALLY THE YOUTH THAT THEY BE INFORMED OF THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SAID RELIGIOUS ARTIFACT**

**WHEREAS**, the historic Balangiga Bells are religious artifacts seized as war trophies by the United States Army from the town of Balangiga in Borongan, Samar (now Eastern Samar) following the infamous Balangiga Massacre in the year 1901 during the Philippine-American War;

**WHEREAS**, one of the historic bells had been tolled to signal the attack made by Filipino revolutionaries on Company C of the 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment stationed in Balangiga, killing an estimated 48 of the 78 men of the unit on 28 September 1901;

**WHEREAS**, in retaliation to the ambush made by Filipino militants, the Americans reduced Balangiga into a "howling wilderness," as ordered by Brig. Gen. Jacob H. Smith, burning the town into ashes and killing anyone capable of bearing arms;

**WHEREAS**, the controversial bell that beckoned the ambush is now in a U.S. military museum in South Korea, while the other two were housed in Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, United States of America, and all three bells are scheduled to return to the Philippines following an announcement by U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis on 15 November 2018;

**WHEREAS**, the repatriation of these symbolic relics marks a step towards healing from the vestiges of war, for both the U.S. and the Philippines, and allows us all to confront the violence of our shared histories, and forge a more peaceful alliance going forward;

**WHEREAS**, with this historic event, it is urged that the government share with the Filipino people one of the three Balangiga Bells to the National Museum, the premier custodian and repository of the country's heritage, to give chance to many Filipinos to see for themselves this religious artifact and be reminded of the role it played in one of the bloodiest chapters of the Philippine-American War;

**WHEREAS**, placing the bell in the National Museum will give every Filipino from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao an opportunity to get a glimpse of an important piece of our nation's history;

**WHEREAS**, said gesture will make the bell accessible to the countless students who make school-sanctioned visits to the National Museum every year, providing them an opportunity to learn from the struggles of our forefathers through the study of this historically significant property;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE,** to urge the Philippine Government to share with the Filipino people one of the Balangiga Bells by placing it in the National Museum for the appreciation and education of the general public especially the youth that they be informed of the historical significance of said religious artifact.

*Adopted,*



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**